



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

LaCourse *et al.*

Appl. No. 10/772,470

Filed: February 6, 2004

For: **Vacuum Membrane Extraction
System**

Confirmation No. 6717

Art Unit: 2856

Examiner: *To be assigned*

Atty. Docket: 2254.0010001/RWE/JKM

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. A copy of document **AR1** is included.

Copies of documents **AA1-AC1** are not provided in accordance with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office pre-OG notice of July 11, 2003, which states "[t]he Office hereby waives the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003."

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached Form PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

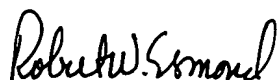
This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No statement or fee is required.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

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FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ATTY. DOCKET NO.
2254.0010001/RWE/JKMAPPLICATION NO.
10/772,470FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
LaCourse *et al.*FILING DATE
February 6, 2004ART UNIT
2856

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA1	3,685,345	08/22/1972	Wise			05/15/1970
	AB1	5,035,149	07/30/1991	Wierenga			12/29/1989
	AC1	5,639,956	06/17/1997	Christy			11/22/1995
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL						Yes No
	AM						Yes No
	AN						Yes No
	AO						Yes No
	AP						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AR	1	Columbia Technologies Membrane Interface Probe (MIP) Facts, available at: http://www.columbiadata.com/mip/mip.cfm? , accessed January 23, 2004
	AS		
	AT		

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

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